

## OLQP MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church is dedicated to witnessing the teachings of Jesus Christ, especially the Gospel of Saint Matthew, Chapter 25:31-46. Our mission is to nurture the spirit and to encourage the potential of those we serve through liturgical celebration, educational endeavors and social ministries. The parish will continue to identify with its origin as a Black parish. As a multi-ethnic congregation we will seek to promote racial harmony and social justice. While our primary focus is within the immediate community, we will also work to provide for the well-being of the downtrodden everywhere. In this we strive for our parish community to be a caring, sharing, and loving family.

**Welcome to OLQP Catholic Church!**  
**¡Bienvenidos a OLQP Iglesia Católica!**

**Contact / Contacto:**

2700 19th St S, Arlington VA 22204  
703-979-5580, [office@olqpva.org](mailto:office@olqpva.org)

**Office Hours**

**Horas de oficina**

Monday-Friday — 8:30am to 4:30pm  
Lunes a viernes — 8:30am a 4:30pm

**Website / sitioweb:**

[www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org](http://www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org)

**Live Stream Mass Schedule:**

**Horario de Misas de transmisión en directo:**

Jan 11-12— 8am and 1pm Spanish  
11-12 enero 8am y 1pm en español

**Masses / Misas:**

**Weekdays / Días laborables:**

Mon-Fri. 12pm / *lunes a viernes 12pm*

**Weekend Mass Schedule /**

**Horario de misas de fin de semana:**

**Saturday Vigil** — 5:30pm

*Misa de vigilia sábados - 5:30 pm*

**Sundays** — 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:15am,

1:00pm (Spanish) & 6:00pm (Young Adult)

*Domingos — 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am,*

*1:00 pm (español) y 6:00 pm (Misa de jóvenes adultos)*

**DECLARACIÓN DE MISIÓN DE OLQP**

La parroquia de la iglesia católica Nuestra Señora Reina de la Paz se dedica a dar testimonio de las enseñanzas de Jesucristo, especialmente el Evangelio de San Mateo, Capítulo 25:21-46. Nuestra misión es nutrir el espíritu y alentar el potencial de aquellos a quienes servimos a través de la celebración litúrgica, labores educativas y ministerios sociales. La parroquia continuará identificándose con su origen como una comunidad afro-americana, pero reflejando una congregación multi-étnica y continuará promoviendo la armonía racial y la justicia social. Si bien es cierto que nuestro enfoque principal es la vecindad comunitaria, continuaremos trabajando para proveer por el bienestar de los más necesitados en general. Es así como nos esforzamos para hacer de nuestra comunidad parroquial una familia que comparte y se preocupa por sus miembros.



## OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CHURCH

January 12, 2025

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

**Mass Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
**Monday, January 20, 11:00am**

**Misa para honrar al Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
**Lunes, 20 de enero, 11:00am**

You will be baptized with  
the Holy Spirit and fire.

*Luke 3:16*



Él los bautizará con el Espíritu  
Santo y con fuego.

*Lucas 3,16*

**NUESTRA SEÑORA REINA DE LA PAZ**

**12 enero de 2025**

**Fiesta del Bautismo del Señor**

## **SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION / PREPARACIÓN SACRAMENTAL**

### **Baptism / Bautizo:**

Please email Baptism Coordinator Mary Ann Suhocki, baptism@olqpva.org.

Por favor mande un correo electrónico a la coordinadora de los bautizos, Mary Ann Suhocki, baptism@olqpva.org.

### **Marriage Preparation/ Preparación para el matrimonio:**

Please contact the parish office at least six months before your wedding date to complete requirements.

Por favor llame a la oficina de la parroquia seis meses antes de su matrimonio para completar todos los requisitos.

### **Reconciliation / Reconciliación—Confesión:**

Fr. Ray Hall Library

*Biblioteca Fr. Ray Hall*

Sat, 4:45-5:15 pm and by appointment.

Los sábados: 4:45-5:15 pm y por cita previa.

### **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS / COLECTAS DEL DOMINGO**

Sunday Collection / Colecta del pasado domingo: \$5,357

Faith Direct (December Average / promedio del mes de diciembre): \$13,506

### **WORD & EUCHARIST MISSALETTE/**

#### **MISAL PALABRA Y EUCARISTÍA**

Today's readings can be found on page 726

Las lecturas de hoy se encuentran en la página 727

### **BULLETIN DEADLINE / PLAZO PARA EL BOLETÍN**

Wednesday 9am — office@olqpva.org

## **OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND STRENGTHEN US / NUESTROS ENFERMOS Y CONFINADOS NOS FORTALECEN**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR / POR FAVOR OREMOS POR:** Suri Barahona, Grace Bialecki, Cindy Bianga, Francis Bilgera, Joseph Leopold Bissonnette, Precious Bowens, April Brassard, Dave Brassard, Evie Brown, Lynne Burgh, Brody Carroll, Louise Chambers, Carmen Rosa Claire, Chris Comer, Jeff Cory, Adele Crump, Mary DaLuca, Cheryl Darby, Jim Davis, Adrienne DiCerbo, Calista Downey, Tim Felker, Elizabeth (Bunny) Foster, Yvette Francois, Anne Fullerton, Joseph Funk, Iva Futrell, Trishann Ganley, Francine Gemmill, Fred Gladbach, Nancy Gormley, Yolanda Gregorio, Jo Marie Griesgraber, Fr. Tuck Grinnell, Melanie Guitreaux, Joe Harrington, Harris Family, Sally Harrs, Linda Hawkins, Clare Hayden, Dee Hickey, Pamela Hoeft, Patrick Hynes, Pat Johnson, Sharon Jourdan, William Kahl, Ruth Klarman, Carmen Andrea Lara, Patrick Lawrey, John Lawyer, Kathleen Love, Lidia Montero Lopez, Olga MacKenzie, Wil McBride, Stefan McGuigan, Martha Gladys Medina, Maria Magdalena Medrano de Ventura, Eileen Melia, Frances Mierzwa, Arthur Miller, Mary Miller, Betty Mills, Yvonne Mockler, Carmen Montijo, Dorothy Moran, Dan Morrisey, Rosemary Morrisey, Luis R. Muñoz, Zoe A. Muñoz, Chelsea Murray, Connie Murray, Ellen Murray, Paul Murray, Dorothy Myrtle, Mario Amel Najarro, Karen Newman, Stephen Nutter, Julie O'Brien, Peggy O'Brien, Patrick Ogden, Carol Pachello, Roy Paco, Neil Parent, Catherine Parr, Mary Pasquarella, Mark Pazich, Minnie Pazich, Paul Ramirez, Santos Ramirez, Jeanna Reynolds, Jacob and Jaxson Rivera, Maritza Roldan, Marco Cristiaan Rufolo-Roger, Josefina Salgado, Carolyn Santos, Jane Shepard, Donna Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Mary E. Smith, Lora Smolenski, Eva Souza, Grace Starbird, Nina Stewart, Michael Arthur Sweat, Carmelita and Roy Tucker, Nancy Urquizo, Stephen Utley, Alma Reyes Valentin, Carina Vaquez, Robin Vogel, Robert & Maureen Wallace, Jim Webster, Kate Witkowski, Lauren Wolfe, Mary Woods

## **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

### **FIESTA DEL BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR**

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 (21C); Acts 10:34-38; Luke 3:15-16, 21-22  
Isaías 42,1-4, 6-7 (21C); Hechos 10,34-38; Lucas 3,15-16, 21-22

### **SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

#### **SEGUNDO DOMINGO EN EL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

Isaiah 62:1-5 (66C); 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11  
Isaías 62,1-5 (66C); 1 Corintios 12,4-11; Juan 2,1-11

## **MASS INTENTIONS, JANUARY 11-17**

### **THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

#### **INTENCIONES DE LAS MISAS, 11-17 ENERO**

#### **EL BAUTISMO DEL SEÑOR**

**Saturday, January 11th**

5:30 pm For The Parish

**Sunday, January 12th**

8:00 am For The Parish

9:30 am Rita Trenga (D) by Denise & Bill Loveless

11:15 am Andre Ponsart (D) by DeeDee Tostanoski

1:00 pm Luis Cabrera (D) by familia Cabrera

6:00 pm For The Parish

**Monday, January 13th**

12:00 am For The Parish

**Tuesday, January 14th**

12:00 am Padre José Nangle (D) by familia Loza Muñoz

**Wednesday, January 15th**

12:00 am For The Parish

**Thursday, January 16th**

12:00 am Patricia Harris (D) by Susan Harris

**Friday, January 17th**

12:00 am For The Parish

## **SACRAMENTAL LIFE OF THE PARISH / VIDA SACRAMENTAL DE LA PARROQUIA**

This weekend we welcome two new Christians. Este fin de semana le damos la bienvenida a dos nuevas cristianas.

### **Helena Dziejcz Carlos & Mia Ramallo**

Baptized January 11 / Bautizadas el 11 de enero

### **OLQP PARISH STAFF / PERSONAL DE LA PARROQUIA**

*Pastor / Párroco:* **Fr. Tim Hickey, CSSp**, thickey@olqpva.org

*Parochial Vicar / Párroco Asociado:* **Fr. Martin Vu, CSSp**, mvu@olqpva.org

*Parochial Vicar / Párroco Asociado:* **Fr. Pontien Kenfack, CSSp**, pkenfack@olqpva.org

*Deacon / Diácono:* **Dcn. Tony Remedios**, tremedios@olqpva.org

#### **Parish Office / Oficina parroquial**

*Business Manager / Gerente de Negocios:* **Christina Kozyn**, ckozyn@olqpva.org

*Social Justice & Outreach Minister / Ministro de Justicia Social y*

*Acercamiento (bilingüe):* **Sally Díaz-Wells**, sdiazwells@olqpva.org

*Youth & Young Adult Minister / Ministro de Adolescentes y Jóvenes Adultos:*

**Rebecca Grant Jenkins**, rgrantjenkins@olqpva.org

*Faith Formation Director / Director de Formación de Fe (bilingüe):*

**Cecilia López Oetgen**, clopez@olqpva.org

*Faith Formation Assistant:* **Carly Onopa**, conopa@olqpva.org

*Office Manager (bilingüe):* **Ligia Loza**, lloza@olqpva.org

*Administrative Support:* **Jeannette Gantz Daly**, jgantzdaly@olqpva.org

**Mike Leahy**, mleahy@olqpva.org

*Maintenance Department Support (bilingüe):*

**Mel Cabrera**, mlvncabrera@gmail.com

**Michael Hill**, mgdvet53155@yahoo.com

**Zulema Ramallo and Henry Nguyen**

**JUST A THOUGHT... or two... Will return next week.**

**Dear God of Mercy and Love,**

**As the flames of wildfires rage,  
we come before you with heavy hearts,  
praying for the safety and comfort of all those affected.**

**Surround them with your protective love,  
providing strength and courage in the face of this relentless inferno.**

**Help them find shelter,  
both physical and spiritual,  
as they endure the destruction and uncertainty that wildfires bring.**

**May the ashes of their past give rise to a brighter and more resilient future.**

**We offer our gratitude for your eternal presence, Lord.**

**Amen.**

#### **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

Evening and weekend activities (except scheduled Masses): OLQP follows the decision of Arlington Public Schools for cancellation of evening and weekend activities. Those traveling outside the local school district should use their best judgment. For the most up-to-date information for Arlington Public Schools, please call 1-866-322-4277 or visit [www.apsva.us/post/inclement-weather-announcements/](http://www.apsva.us/post/inclement-weather-announcements/)

Parish Office Staff and Weekday Activities, 8:30am-4:30pm: Office and weekday activities follow the decision of the Federal Government. Tune in to your local radio and tv stations for updated information or visit [www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/](http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/)

Masses: The decision to cancel Masses within the Diocese of Arlington is made by Bishop Burbidge and broadcast on local radio and tv stations.

#### **NORMAS ANTE LA INCLEMENCIA DEL CLIMA**

Las actividades nocturnas y de fin de semana (con excepción de las misas programadas): OLQP sigue la decisión de las Escuelas Públicas de Arlington para la cancelación de actividades nocturnas y de fin de semana. Las personas que estuvieran fuera del sistema escolar local deben utilizar su mejor juicio. Para obtener la información más actualizada sobre las Escuelas Públicas de Arlington, por favor llame al 1-866-322-4277.

Personal de la Oficina Parroquial: las actividades de la Oficina y del día siguen la decisión del Gobierno Federal. Sintonice las emisoras de radio y televisión locales para obtener información actualizada.

Misas: La decisión de cancelar las misas dentro de la Diócesis de Arlington es hecha por el obispo Burbidge y transmitida por las estaciones de radio y televisión locales.

## **Una comunidad católica con una ética consistente con la vida**

### **HOLY HOUR**

#### **SONG – SILENCE – SCRIPTURE**

Please join us in the church for Holy Hour on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7pm. We will gather this month on the 23rd. We will meditate on Scripture readings, (in Spanish and English), sing Taizé style songs and sit quietly in prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. A wonderful opportunity to slow down and sit with God in the midst of our busy lives.

### **CARPENTER'S SHELTER DINNER**

**Thursday, January 16**

Our dinner this month is Midge Wholey's "Turkey Tetrazzini for a Crowd" from the OLQP cookbook, a veggie option, salad, and brownies. Sign up for an item from the menu above; your food can be delivered to the parish office kitchen Monday through Friday, during their office hours, 8:30-4:30, or to Fr. Ray Hall kitchen on the day of dinner, 4:30-5:00PM. Please label food with date and description and place it in the refrigerator, freezer or counter. Note, if you're delivering directly to the Shelter (930 N. Henry Street in Alexandria), label food the same and add our church name & "dinner". If you are a new contributor, or have a question, contact Mary Resnick, 703-462-4841, [mary.resnick@gmail.com](mailto:mary.resnick@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **VOLUNTEER: TEACH KIDS ABOUT STAYING SAFE**

Are you available during the day, during the week, and enjoy working with kids, if so, this opportunity is for you! The Department of Family Services' Body Safety Program needs volunteer classroom instructors to help empower elementary students with the tools they need to prevent or interrupt child abuse. Apply online at <https://bit.ly/3nSoolIM> or contact the Body Safety staff at [DFSBodySafety@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:DFSBodySafety@FairfaxCounty.gov), or 703-324-7459. Si usted habla Español, nosotros necesitamos su ayuda!

**THE GIVING TREE** – Support SEEC Day Laborers! We invite you to support the parish in providing lunch for SEEC day laborers. Each week volunteers shop, prepare and package lunches for Shirlington Day Laborers through the Brown Bag Lunch Program. The Giving Tree in the sanctuary during Christmastime supports this effort: take a 'brown bag angel' ornament from the basket under the giving tree in the sanctuary, place your donation inside the ornament and hang it on the tree. The tree will be in the sanctuary through the Christmas season.

### **CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP SIGN-UP IS OPEN!**

We are heading to Morganton, North Carolina, near Asheville, NC, July 13-19th for a week of service, faith development, and fun for rising 9th - 12th graders! Our work there will help the area which is still recovering from the devastating hurricanes which swept through the region. Adult volunteers are also needed! Apply, here: <https://tinyurl.com/OLQPVACHWC2025> or scan the QR code:



### **HORA SANTA**

#### **CANCIÓN – SILENCIO – ESCRITURAS**

Por favor únase a nosotros en la iglesia para una Hora Santa el cuarto jueves del mes a las 7pm. Este mes nos reuniremos el 23. Meditaremos las lecturas de las Escrituras, (en español e inglés), cantaremos canciones al estilo Taizé y nos sentaremos en silencio en oración en presencia del Santísimo Sacramento. Esta es una oportunidad maravillosa para tranquilizarnos y pasar unos momentos con Dios en medio de nuestras vidas ajetreadas.

### **LA CENA REFUGIO DEL CARPINTERO**

**El jueves, 16 de enero**

La cena este mes es "Turkey Tetrazzini for a Crowd" de Midge Wholey del libro de cocina de OLQP, una opción vegetariana, ensalada y brownies. Apúntese para traer uno de estos artículos de este menú. Puede llevar las contribuciones a la oficina de la parroquia de lunes a jueves de 8:30 a 4:30 la semana de la comida, o a la cocina de Fr. Ray Hall el día de la comida de 4:30 a 5:00pm. Por favor identifique la comida con la fecha y la descripción y póngala en el refrigerador, congelador o mostrador. Atención, si va a llevar la comida al refugio directamente el día de la comida (930 N. Henry Street in Alexandria), identifíquela de la misma manera y añada el nombre de nuestra iglesia y "dinner". Si es la primera vez que contribuye o tiene alguna pregunta, por favor contacte a Mary Resnick, 703-462-4841, [mary.resnick@gmail.com](mailto:mary.resnick@gmail.com). ¡Gracias!

### **OFRÉZCASE DE VOLUNTARIA/O: ENSÉÑELES A NIÑAS Y NIÑOS A MANTENERSE SEGURAS Y SEGUROS**

¿Está disponible durante el día, durante la semana y disfruta de trabajar con niñas y niños? ¡Si es así, esta oportunidad es para usted! El Department of Family Services' Body Safety Program necesita personas voluntarias en las aulas para habilitar a estudiantes de escuela elemental con las destrezas que necesitan para prevenir o interrumpir el abuso de niñas y niños. Solicite en línea en: <https://bit.ly/3nSoolIM> o contacte al personal de Body Safety en: [DFSBodySafety@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:DFSBodySafety@FairfaxCounty.gov), o 703-324-7459. ¡Si usted habla español, nosotros necesitamos su ayuda!

**THE GIVING TREE** -- ¡Apoye a los jornaleros de SEEC! Los invitamos a apoyar a la parroquia al darle almuerzo a los jornaleros de SEEC. Cada semana personas voluntarias que forman parte del Brown Bag Lunch van de compras, preparan y empacan almuerzos para los jornaleros de Shirlington. El Giving Tree apoya este esfuerzo: tome un ornamento, "un ángel de papel", de la canasta que está debajo del "giving tree" en el santuario, ponga su donación dentro del ornamento y cuélguelo en el árbol. El árbol va a estar en el santuario durante la temporada navideña.

### **¡LA INSCRIPCIÓN PARA EL HEART WORK CAMP DEL MINISTERIO DE ADOLESCENTES ESTÁ ABIERTA!**

¡Vamos a ir a Morganton, North Carolina, cerca de Asheville, NC, del 13 al 19 de julio para una semana de servicio, desarrollo de la fe y diversión para futuros estudiantes de los grados 9 al 12! Nuestro trabajo allí va a ayudar al área que todavía se está recuperando de los huracanes devastadores que azotaron la región. ¡También se necesitan personas adultas voluntarias!

**MATTHEW 25** -- Please review your outerwear closets and donate gently used or new jackets for men, women, and children. Car-coat lengths work best for our predominantly petit client base; longer length coats tend to linger in the store. Thank you for your continued support.

**FOOD PANTRY** -- This Sunday is the second Sunday of the month, that means it is food collection weekend. Please help support the Food Pantry with donated food for the pantry. We offer the following items if you would like to buy some or all of them. Grocery list: box of low sugar cereal, 1 lb - Pasta, 24 oz. can or jar - Pasta Sauce, 1 box - Mac and Cheese, 24 oz. bottle - Oil, 5lbs – Corn Flour (not corn meal), 1 lb - Rice, 1lb - Dried Beans (or 2 cans - Canned Beans), 1 15 oz. can - Corn and 1 15 oz can - Green Vegetable. If you find that you cannot bring food items, please consider donating money via faith direct or via check in the collection basket (please note food pantry on the check memo line). Thank you for your continued support.

**GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION:** Neither rain, nor snow, nor heat nor cold are barriers to our *Discipleship in Christ*. Our witness for peace and our commitment to safety from violence inspire our persistence to stand for **GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**. For the past 10+ years, on the 14th of every month Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence witness to that commitment in front of the National Rifle Association headquarters, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax. If your discipleship moves you to act, join other concerned NoVA residents for 1 hour on **TUESDAY, January 14 at 10:00 am at the NRA.**

*Programs that are open to the entire community, but offered in English only.  
Programas que le dan la bienvenida a toda la comunidad, pero que solo se ofrecen en inglés.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR PARISH FAMILY!**  
**2025 Josephite Calendars** are available at the back of church. Please take one for you family's use at home.

**REGISTER WITH THE PARISH //  
UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION  
LET US KNOW YOU'RE MOVING**

If you have not officially registered with the parish, we invite you to do so. Updated, accurate information is very useful to us, especially in communicating important news like a weather-related closure. Visit the parish website ([www.olqpva.org](http://www.olqpva.org)) click on About Us >> Register >> Register With Us.

If you have had an addition to your family, if you have had a change of address or if you would like to know what information we have on file for your family, please send a message to Jeannette Gantz Daly in the parish office: [jgantzdaly@olqpva.org](mailto:jgantzdaly@olqpva.org)

**MATEO 25** – Por favor, revise sus **roperos/armarios** y done chaquetas nuevas o poco usadas para hombres, mujeres, niñas y niños. Las chaquetas menos largas son mejores para la clientela menudita porque las chaquetas y abrigos más largos suelen permanecer en la tienda. Gracias por su continuo apoyo.

**DESPENSA DE ALIMENTOS** – Este domingo es el segundo domingo del mes y eso significa que es el fin de semana de la recogida de alimentos. Por favor ayude a apoyar la Despensa de alimentos con donaciones para la despensa. Ofrecemos los siguientes artículos si quiere comprar alguno o todos. Lista de artículos: caja de cereal bajo en azúcar, 1 lb de pasta, lata o frasco de 24 oz de salsa para pasta, 1 caja de macarrones y queso, 1 botella de 24 oz de aceite, 5 lbs harina de maíz (no corn meal), 1 lb arroz, 1 lb de frijoles secos (o 2 latas de frijoles), 1 lata de 15 oz de maíz y 1 lata de 15 oz de vegetales verdes. Si no puede traer comida, por favor considere donar dinero por Faith Direct o un cheque en la cesta de la colecta (por favor escriba Food Pantry en la línea del asunto). Gracias por su continuo apoyo.

**PREVENCIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA CAUSADA POR ARMAS DE FUEGO:** Ni la lluvia, ni la nieve, ni el calor o el frío son barreras para nuestro *Discipulado en Cristo*. Nuestro testimonio de la paz y nuestro compromiso con la seguridad de la violencia inspira nuestra determinación de defender la **PREVENCIÓN DE LA VIOLENCIA CON ARMAS DE FUEGO**. Por más de 10 años, el 14 de cada mes, Concerned Citizens Against Gun Violence dan testimonio de ese compromiso frente a la sede de la National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax. Si su discipulado le motiva a actuar, únase a otras personas interesadas, que viven en NoVa por 1 hora el **MARTES, 14 de enero a las 10:00 am en la NRA.**

**ECO-TIP** from the Integrity of Creation Ministry: As you consider New Year's resolutions, think about how you might better care for God's Creation. That could be conserving water, reducing plastic consumption, using public transportation, starting a compost, or something else! Use these ECO-TIPS, past and future, for inspiration, and share with others to stay accountable! More ideas: [greencitizen.com/blog/sustainable-new-years-resolutions/](http://greencitizen.com/blog/sustainable-new-years-resolutions/).

**FATIH DIRECT – OLQP's e-Giving Program**

We are expecting an unprecedented number of people throughout our community to turn to us for warm meals, comfort, and shelter. No one in need should be turned away, which is why we are reaching out to our parishioners.

Your generous online donations now will help sustain our outreach programs that reflect God's love.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for e-Giving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift.

Sign up today by visiting [faith.direct/VA271](http://faith.direct/VA271) or call Faith Direct's Customer Service team at 866-507-8757.

**NEW STEPHEN MINISTER  
TRAINING CLASS  
January 16, 2025**

Mathew 25 calls on us to welcome the stranger. When in life we experience a crisis or a loss, we may feel estranged from those we love and from our church as well. Stephen Ministers welcome those who are struggling with a life crisis. They offer Jesus' love and care.

To provide the welcome, we are looking to train an expanded team of lay caregivers who will meet individually each week with people in need, to listen compassionately and pray. In this way, the Stephen Minister provides hope and a reminder of God's infinite love.

Becoming a Stephen Minister is a commitment, but the rewards are amazing. You will be part of a group of compassionate caregivers. You will grow spiritually and personally while gaining relational skills. You will have the opportunity to see God at work, in and through you, to bring hope and healing to another person.

For additional info contact Louise Drucker at 703 635 0469; [louisedrucker@gmail.com](mailto:louisedrucker@gmail.com).

**MESSAGE FROM ALCY CINÉUS, ENGLISH TEACHER IN  
MEDOR'S SECONDARY SCHOOL:**

*To the dear people of Our Lady Queen of Peace,  
I write on behalf of all the teachers in Medor. We wish you peace and happiness. We pray that God watches over you daily and that He grants you good health and longevity. Many of the school doors in Haiti are closed, but thanks to our remote location and to your kind support, the children of Médor have been back to school since the beginning of September. Thank you for staying connected with Father Frantz in order to advance our primary school, secondary school and four chapel schools. We don't have enough words to say "THANK YOU" in gold letters for keeping the schools running. We are very, very grateful. You remain always in our memories. We are grateful for your kindness, especially since Haiti is an extremely difficult country. Your help allows us to stay in Haiti; we don't try to leave like many other Haitians who try to move elsewhere. Finally, we are wishing you MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025.*

**PARISH ADVISORY BOARD –  
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!**

Did you know OLQP has elected lay leadership that supports Fr. Tim and parish activities? Parish Advisory Board (PAB) members commit to attend bimonthly meetings (currently 2nd Thursday of the month), serve on committees as needed, and listen to and present parishioners' views. The PAB strives to represent the many backgrounds, ages, mass cohorts, and ministry groups of the parish. Six (6) seats are up for election, with new members serving a two-year term. Registered parishioners who have been active for at least two years are eligible and encouraged to consider the PAB – nominate yourself or a fellow parishioner. Nomination slips are available in the sanctuary, or you may submit nominations via email to [carlsonbsa@gmail.com](mailto:carlsonbsa@gmail.com). (Please include the nominee's full name, phone number, and email address). The nomination period closes at the end of the day on **Sunday, February 2**.

**SPIRITUAL CARE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Inova's Alexandria and Mount Vernon Hospital Volunteer Chaplain programs are inviting people of all faith traditions to join their team to help provide spiritual and emotional support to a diverse population of patients and family members. Lay or ordained members are welcome to apply.

A thorough orientation and training are provided, along with regular ongoing education opportunities. Be assured that your safety and wellbeing are paramount. We function in ways that maximize your wellbeing and safety.

We are seeking:

- Compassionate, emotionally healthy individuals.
- Openness to supporting people of diverse spiritual, ethnic, lifestyle backgrounds. (Proselytizing, witnessing or attempting to convert are never permitted.)
- Are comfortable working with computers.
- A commitment of four hours per week. (Daytime/weekday only. No evening or weekend options at this time.)

Please contact us with any questions and/or to request an application form. For Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, contact [refia.tonguc@inova.org](mailto:refia.tonguc@inova.org) and for Inova Alexandria Hospital, contact [William.Tweedley@inova.org](mailto:William.Tweedley@inova.org). Application deadline is February 15, 2025.

**ADVOCATES for JUSTICE:** The 2025 Virginia General Assembly has begun. As our faith leaders teach us, responsible citizenship is a virtue AND participation in political life is a moral obligation. The following links are offered as tools to promote learning about the political processes in Virginia. Using these educational resources might inspire readers to take action as appropriate.

**Virginia General Assembly**

- [Home Page](#)
- [Who's My Legislator](#)
- [General Assembly Members](#)
- [House Video](#)
- [Senate Video](#)
- [Citizen Involvement](#)

**Schedules/Calendars**

- [Session Schedule](#)
- [Meeting Schedule](#)
- [Delegates Meeting Schedule](#)
- [Designated Dates enacted by the Virginia General Assembly](#)

**MENTOR WITH BEFRIEND-A-CHILD**

If you are looking for a fun way to fill your time while also making a positive impact on a child in your community then this opportunity is for you! The Department of Family Services is seeking mentors throughout Fairfax County to mentor a child between the ages of 5 to 12 years old. Mentors must be able to make a two-year commitment, spend at least eight hours every month with their mentee and participate in monthly group outings. To learn more or to apply, visit <https://bit.ly/DFSBC>. For more information, please contact one of the Befriend-A-Child Program Coordinators Tiffani Peguese or Paula Severiche at [DFSbefriend-A-Child@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:DFSbefriend-A-Child@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-324-7072.



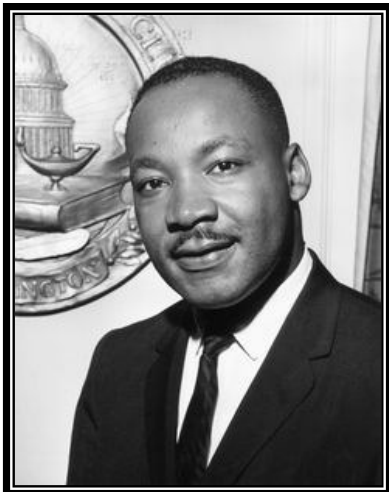
*Please Join Our Congregation  
For a Mass  
Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*On*

*Monday, January 20, 2025*

*At 11:00 AM*

**Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church  
2700 South 19<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arlington, Virginia 22204**



*Commemorating the Life and Legacy of  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

*2025 Theme:*

*“Our Diversity is Our Strength”*

\*\*\*

**Fr. Tim Hickey, CSSp, Presiding  
9:30 Gospel Choir**

# In Difficult Times, We Find Out What Kind of Christians We Are

By [Michael Woolf](#)

*The following is adapted from a sermon Rev. Michael Woolf preached at Lake Street Church in Evanston, Ill., on Sunday, Nov. 10, four days after the results of the 2024 U.S. presidential election rolled in.*

I have been at the site of only a couple of miracles in my life. None of them were flashy. I'm going to tell you a story of one of those everyday miracles now. When I was first starting out as a pastor, I was in a rural congregation. Founded in 1663, it was the second oldest Baptist congregation in North America. But this is not a story about that, nor is it a story about how the first minister of that church was paid in gallons of rum. This story takes place hundreds of years later, during my tenure as pastor.

Occasionally, while working on site, someone who was unhoused and in need of something would knock on the outside door that led to my office. Invariably, it was when I was there alone and had limited resources to help them.

Once, I gave a woman a ride to her broken-down van, from which she had walked about 5 miles to the church. I filled up her gas tank enough to get her somewhere down the road, and I thought that was it. I was getting ready to go home for the day when I saw a guy come up and just start putting groceries in her van. Curious, I stuck around.

This guy had no knowledge of her — didn't know her or her circumstances — but said that he felt compelled to give her his groceries. According to the woman he was helping, he simply said, "You need them more than I do." As she left the parking lot, the bottom of her van drooped with the number of groceries that this stranger put in there. And I marveled. Surely there is no greater miracle than that.

I tell you that story because it is small. It did not change the world. It did not create long-lasting political realignment and it had nothing to do with who has power in our political system.

...

Scripture tells us that it is not the big things that actually count to God: "Whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward" (Matthew 10:42). Matthew 25 says that what we do for the imprisoned, the sick, the lonely, the destitute, we do for God. We either visit them — which I take to mean we see their humanity — or we don't. The choice is ours. But how we act matters. We can only affect so much, but we must do what we can. We have choices to make.

Both the Talmud and Quran contain a similar teaching: "Whoever saves the life of another it is as if they saved the entire world." If you are prone to despair right now, concerned that whatever you do doesn't matter, then this is the antidote: The collected wisdom of all the ages insists that what you do matters a great deal. The choices you make can save the entire world.

My favorite theological thinker is Dorothee Sölle, a German, feminist theologian. When she was reckoning with where God was during the Holocaust, she had this to say: "In the Nazi period in Germany God was small and weak. God was in fact powerless because God had no friends."

We must strive to be friends of God, because we are the only hands that God has.

Now, I will not promise you success. Success is illusory. God has not always been linked with success over the years, but here, the Talmud has more wisdom for us: "It is not up to you to finish the work but neither are you free to desist from it."

If you want to be a friend of God — and God needs all the friends that God can get in these times — then you will have to work for a better world.

We have spent much time over the past

months thinking big; we've been counting electoral votes and looking at polls. But now, I want to ask you to think small. Think about the things you can do. Think about minivans that stagger out of parking lots.

We cannot just jump to hope. Hope seems like a big ask in these times, but I do want you to have faith. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. said that "the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice." We like the last part, but we don't like the first part. The arc is long. Often, even in a whole human lifetime, we do not have the privilege of seeing it bend. But it will bend if you are a friend of God. It will bend if you bend it. It will bend if you give someone a cup of cold water. I ask you to have faith in the bending of that arc, in the fact that what you do matters.

It is in the difficult times that we find out who we are. If you've ever wondered what you would do in the middle of a moral crisis — would you be silent or let your voice be heard? — you can rest assured, you live in one now. You can also be confident that your labor will be joined by God's, that the arc will bend, and that miracles never cease.

Don't sit this one out. Dig deep. Find something in yourself and in your community that needs doing. Be kind. Fill up a minivan and watch the universe find its place again.

*Michael Woolf is the senior minister of Lake Street Church of Evanston in Illinois and the author of [Sanctuary and Subjectivity: Thinking Theologically About Whiteness and Sanctuary Movements](#). He is the co-founder of [Challenging Islamophobia Together Chicago](#)land with his spouse, Rev. Anna Piela.*

November 19, 2024  
Sojo.net

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